



# The County Commuter

## Annual Transportation Survey Results

### Inside this issue:

Metrolink News	2
Metrolink Subsidy— Additional Incentive	3
Bus Route to Work	3
Commuter Club News	4
Carpool Classifieds Grows to 500 Names	4
Newsletter Goes On-Line	4

### Points of interest:

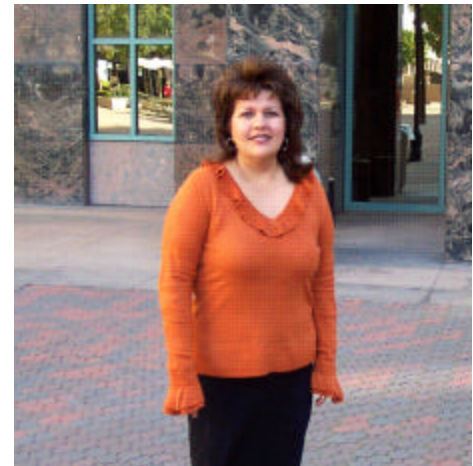
- Survey shows that only 100 cars arrive at OC worksites for every 120 employees.
- Get \$100, \$75, then \$50 to join a vanpool for 3 months.
- Over 700 employees joined the Commuter Club as part of the annual survey.
- More than 500 names added to the "carpool classifieds."
- Newsletter to go on-line.

Last October, all employees were required to complete the annual transportation survey. The results showed that for a fifth year in a row there was a decrease in the average number of cars per employee arriving each day at County of Orange worksites. The "average vehicle ridership" increased from 1.20 to 1.22. That means that only 100 vehicles arrive at worksites for every 122 employees. Others are carpooling, vanpooling, walking, biking, or taking the bus or train to work. We continue to make progress toward attaining our goal of 1.50 or one employee out of three employees ride-sharing to work.

The majority of employees completed the new on-line survey. This made it more convenient for employees to submit the survey, and also resulted in achieving an overall response rate of 93%. Efforts to further automate the Annual Transportation Survey process for next year are al-

ready underway. Thanks to all who took the time to complete the survey!

Finally, all employees who submitted the annual transportation survey were put into a drawing to win a \$100 gift certificate to the MainPlace Mall in Santa Ana, and the lucky winner was **Leticia Ochoa Trejeo**, Probation. Congratulations!



**Winner, Leticia Ochoa Trejeo, Probation**

## New Vanpool Incentive Program

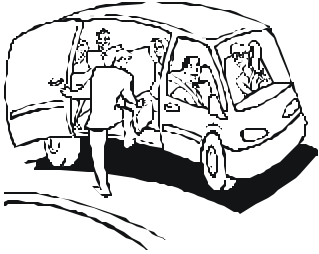
A new vanpool incentive program called "Van To Work" is now available for all County of Orange employees who are interested in joining a vanpool. Here's how the program works:

1. Employees who are interested in getting into a vanpool must call one or both of the

certified vanpool service providers, VPSI Commuter Vanpools at 800/826-7433, or Enterprise Rideshare 800/826-4967.

2. You must provide the vanpool operators with your commute origin, destination, work hours, etc.

*(Continued on Page Two)*



## New Vanpool Incentive Program (continued)

3. If there is a vanpool available, the operators will provide you with the name and telephone number of the vanpool driver. Contact the driver to see if there is an available seat, where to meet or park your car, and the monthly fee.

4. On your first day, you will be asked to pay for the first month's fee up front. Pay the required fee and be sure to get a signed receipt from the vanpool driver.

5. Complete the "Van To Work" rebate form, and submit it to us with a copy of your paid receipt. Log onto the Commuter Assistance Program web site at [www.oc.ca.gov/hr/rideshare](http://www.oc.ca.gov/hr/rideshare) and click on Incentive Programs to get a copy of the rebate form.

6. Upon receipt of your rebate form, we will verify the information and upon approval, send you a \$100 voucher that can be used toward your second month's fare. But that's not all! If you keep riding the vanpool, send us a copy of the receipt for the

second month, and we'll send you a voucher for \$75 that can be used toward your third month's fare. Finally, if you keep riding that same vanpool, send us a copy of the receipt for the third month, and we'll send you a final voucher for \$50 that can be used toward your fourth month's fare. That's \$225 that you'll keep in your pocket, and what's even better is that you won't be fighting the traffic to get to work, you'll be taking a "Van To Work!"

The "Van To Work" program is available to County of Orange employees who are NEW to vanpooling and who have not previously participated in a vanpool subsidy program. The incentive is paid directly to the rider, in the form of a voucher that is accepted by VPSI Commuter Vanpools or Enterprise Rideshare as a form of payment. This is a one-time subsidy and must be used and submitted within three consecutive months. Incentives will only be paid to riders in a certified VPSI Commuter Vanpools or Enterprise Rideshare vehicle, other vanpool providers are not eligible.

## Metrolink News

### New Metrolink station opens in Corona.

There's a new station on Metrolink's Inland Empire – Orange County line designed to make commuting to Orange County more convenient. Now, thanks to the new North Main Corona station, there's an alternative to the West Corona and Riverside-La Sierra stations. The new station has plenty of parking and can easily be reached via the Corona Cruiser, a fixed route bus service offered by the City of Corona. For more information about the Corona Cruiser call 909/734-9418. Metrolink passengers ride FREE on the Corona Cruiser with proof of a valid Metrolink ticket or pass.

The new station is located at 250 E. Blaine Street – north of the 91 Freeway and east of Main Street. The North Main Corona station is the 53<sup>rd</sup> station in the Metrolink system, and the State of California has committed to fund an \$11 million parking structure within the next few years

If you are interested in getting two FREE tickets to try the train, log onto the Commuter Assistance Program web site at [www.oc.ca.gov/hr/rideshare](http://www.oc.ca.gov/hr/rideshare), and click on the **Incentive Programs** to get more information on the "Get Into Training" program for new and current riders.

## Metrolink Subsidy—Additional Incentive

Great news! As of January 1, 2003, you can apply for a \$100 incentive for showing that you have ridden Metrolink for at least six months during the past year. The difference now is that you can apply for this incentive once every 12 months! In the past, this was a one-time only incentive. So now if you received the \$100 transit voucher in 2001, and you continue to ride Metrolink, you can apply again this month! For a current rider application, go to our web site at [www.oc.ca.gov/hr/rideshare](http://www.oc.ca.gov/hr/rideshare), and click on **Incentive Programs** to print a copy of the current rider application.

Each quarter, as part of the "Get Into Training" program, we also award a \$100 voucher as part of a drawing to new and current riders. This quarter's winner is **James Bogan**, Social Services Agency. Congratulations, and thanks for riding the train!

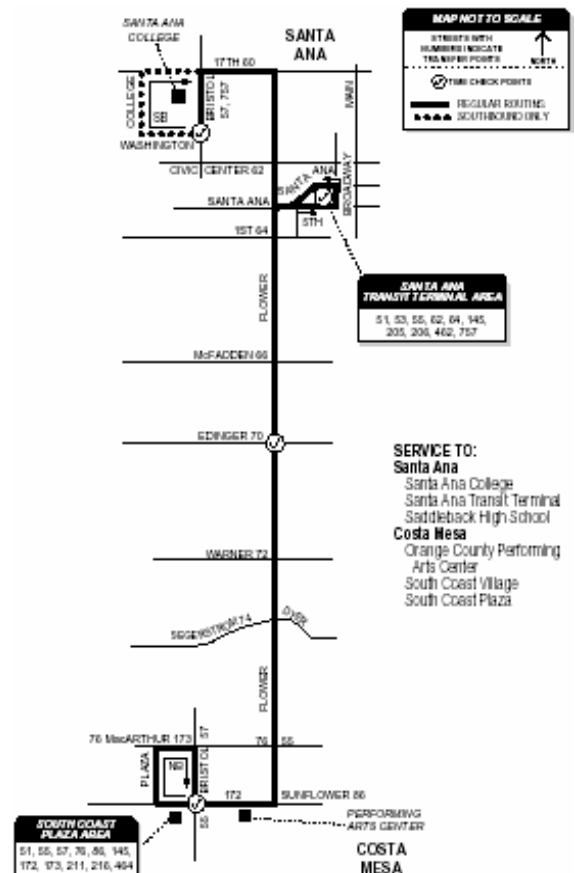
## Bus Route To Work

*"Taking the bus  
has never been  
easier".*

Riding the bus has never been easier with the OCTA 30-Day Pass, Night Owl Service and effective November 1, 2002, OCTA and Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) started accepting each other's monthly passes on routes that service each county.

One bus line we'd like to highlight this quarter is **Route 51**. It starts as early as 4:52 a.m. at Sunflower Avenue and Bristol Street in Costa Mesa near the South Coast Plaza and travels north along Flower Street, making a stop along the way at Edinger Avenue before it drops you off across from the Santa Ana Transit Terminal on Santa Ana Blvd. between Ross and Broadway (near Bldg 10), in as little as 37 minutes. And just think, when you get to work you don't have to try and find a parking space! The routes are timed so they run about every thirty minutes, and if you have to work late, there's a final bus that leaves Santa Ana at 10 p.m.

If you have a question about OCTA local bus service, passes or need help finding a bus route near you, call



OCTA's Customer Information Center at 1-800-636-7433 or 714/636-7433. Operators are available to answer your questions and help plan your bus trip. Or at [www.octa.net](http://www.octa.net).

## Commuter Club News

The Commuter Club is a reward program for employees who commit to carpool, take the bus or train, walk, bike or vanpool to work at least five times per month.

As part of the annual transportation survey, over 700 employees automatically renewed their Commuter Club commitment or enrolled for the first time. That's a record! Those employees will receive a Commuter Club card honored by local merchants for discounts and special offers, and as an added bonus will also receive a "Healthy Dining in Orange County" guide that contains discount coupons, recipes and tips on eating healthy at participating restaurants. The 2003 packages will be sent out in January and February.

If you did not submit a survey or forgot to register – no problem, simply log onto the

Commuter Assistance Program's web site at [www.oc.ca.gov/hr/rideshare](http://www.oc.ca.gov/hr/rideshare), click on **Incentive Programs** and print out a copy of the Commuter Club application. You can also pick up an application from one of the Commuter Information Display racks located at 30 worksites throughout the County, or you can call the Message Center at 714/834-4068 for more information.

We've also been working to get additional discounts from local venues like Hilo Hattie and the California Board of Tourism. New discount coupons will be sent to all new and renewing Commuter Club members this month. It's not too late to send in your application!



### COMMUTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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[www.oc.ca.gov/hr/rideshare](http://www.oc.ca.gov/hr/rideshare)

The County Commuter Newsletter is published by the Commuter Assistance Program Office managed by the CEO/Human Resources. Our mission is to distribute commuter information to all County of Orange employees so that they can make informed decisions about how they travel to work. For more information about the Commuter Assistance Program, please go to web site.

## Carpool Classifieds Grows To 500 Names

We have a new list of very eager County of Orange employees who would like to find a carpool partner to help make their commutes easier. If you are interested in finding a carpool partner, please log onto the Commuter Assistance Program's web site at [www.oc.ca.gov/hr/rideshare](http://www.oc.ca.gov/hr/rideshare), and click on **Carpool Connection** for a list of carpool-ready commuters. You'll also find tips on forming a carpool, a map showing car-

pool lanes and information about the County Guaranteed Return Trip program for rideshare participants.

If you would like to be added to the on-line carpool Carpool Classifieds list, click on **Request For Information** and print an applications form to submit to us. It's easy, updated frequently and one of the quickest ways to find a carpool partner!

## Newsletter Goes On-Line

The next issue of the County Commuter newsletter will be going on-line starting in March 2003 – look for us in cyberspace! You'll soon also be able to submit applications on-line for the Commuter Assistance Programs. Log onto [www.oc.ca.gov/hr/rideshare](http://www.oc.ca.gov/hr/rideshare) to check out our progress toward providing even more on-line options for County commuters.